In the Claims

Please amend claims 7, 10, 14, 19, 22, and 24; and add claims 25-28 as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (**Currently Amended**) A surgical device for curetting an intervertebral disc between opposing first and second vertebrae, said surgical device comprising:

- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of said device;
- a blade extending from said distal end of said shaft, said blade having a leading end and a trailing end,
- said blade having a first concave surface facing a first direction and a first cutting edge and said blade having a second concave surface facing a second direction and a second cutting edge,
- said blade having a first cutting ~~height~~ dimension ~~and a width dimension less than said height dimension,~~ defined between said first cutting edge ~~at a first end of said height dimension~~ and said second cutting edge ~~at a second end of said height dimension~~;
- distraction structure having a first non-cutting surface and a second non-cutting surface, the distraction structure having a ~~distracting~~ second non-cutting dimension defined between said first non-cutting surface and said second non-cutting surface, said second non-cutting dimension being greater than said ~~height~~ first cutting dimension.

8. (Previously Presented) The surgical device according to claim 7 further comprising a collecting element on said leading end of said blade, said collecting element overlying a portion of said first concave surface and said second concave surface at said leading end of said blade.

9. (Original) The surgical device according to claim 7 wherein when said device is rotated in a first direction around said longitudinal axis said first and second cutting edges are

oriented for cutting and when said device is rotated in a second direction around said longitudinal axis, opposite to said first direction said first and second cutting edges are not oriented for cutting.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The surgical device according to claim 8 wherein said collecting element has a tapered surface facing away from said ~~leading~~ trailing end of said blade and a collecting surface facing toward said ~~leading~~ trailing end of said blade.

11. (Original) The surgical device according to claim 7 wherein said first cutting edge is facing in a direction opposite said second cutting edge.

12. (Original) The surgical device according to claim 8 wherein a portion of a peripheral surface of said collecting element does not extend axially beyond a said first and second cutting edges.

13. (Original) The surgical device according to claim 7 having a handle for rotating said instrument at said proximal end.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A curette comprising:

- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of said curette;
- a blade extending from said distal end of said shaft, said blade having a leading end and a trailing end[[,]];
- said blade having an undulating configuration such that, a first side of said blade has a first concave region and a first convex region and a second side of said blade has a second concave region and a second convex region;
- said first side having a first cutting edge and said second side having a second cutting edge;
- a collecting element at said leading end of said blade, said collecting element including a collecting surface oriented to face the trailing end of the blade ~~overlying a portion of said first concave surface and said second concave surface~~.

15. (Original) The curette according to claim 14 wherein said first concave region and said second concave region face in opposite directions.

16. (Original) The curette according to claim 14 wherein said first concave region of said first side is adjacent said second convex region of said second side and said second concave region of said second side is adjacent said first concave region of said first side.

17. (Original) The curette according to claim 14 wherein when said curette is rotated in a first direction around said longitudinal axis said first and second cutting edges are oriented for cutting around said longitudinal axis and when said curette is rotated in a second direction around said longitudinal axis, opposite to said first direction, said first and second cutting edges are not oriented for cutting around said longitudinal axis.

18. (Original) The curette according to claim 17 wherein said first cutting edge is diametrically opposed to said second cutting edge.

19. (**Currently Amended**) The curette according to claim 18 wherein said collecting element has a tapered surface facing away from said distal end of said shaft ~~and a collecting surface facing toward said distal end of said shaft~~.

20. (Original) The curette according to claim 14 wherein a portion of a peripheral surface of said collecting element does not extend beyond said first and second cutting edges.

21. (Original) The curette according to claim 14 having a handle for rotating said curette at said proximal end of said shaft.

22. (**Currently Amended**) A surgical device for curetting an intervertebral disc between opposing first and second vertebrae, said surgical device comprising:

- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
- a blade positioned at the distal end of the shaft;

- said blade having first and second cutting edges and first and second distraction surfaces adjacent said first and second cutting edges; and
- said blade having a cutting height dimension extending between the first and second cutting edges and a non-cutting ~~distraction~~ height dimension extending between the first and second distraction surfaces, wherein said non-cutting ~~distraction~~ height dimension is greater than said cutting height dimension.

23. (Previously Presented) The surgical device according to claim 22 wherein the first and second distraction surfaces are rounded.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A surgical device for curetting an intervertebral disc between opposing first and second vertebrae, said surgical device comprising:
- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
- a blade positioned at the distal end of the shaft;
- said blade having first and second cutting edges separated by a first distance and first and second non-cutting ~~distraction~~ surfaces separated by a second distance, said non-cutting ~~distraction~~ surfaces being adjacent to said first and second cutting edges; and
- said second distance being larger than said first distance.

25. **(New)** The surgical device according to claim 7 wherein the first and second non-cutting surfaces are rounded.

26. **(New)** The surgical device according to claim 22 wherein the first and second distraction surfaces are shaped such when the surfaces contact the first and second vertebrae, the first and second vertebrae are force apart without curetting any portion of the first and second vertebrae.

27. **(New)** The surgical device according to claim 24 wherein the first and second non-cutting surfaces are rounded.

28. **(New)** A surgical device for curetting an intervertebral disc between opposing first and second vertebrae, said surgical device comprising:

- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft defining an axis of rotation;
- a blade positioned at the distal end of the shaft with the axis of rotation of the shaft passing through the blade;
- the blade having first and second rounded distraction surfaces positioned at opposite sides of the of the axis of rotation, the distraction surfaces facing outwardly from the axis of rotation and being separated by a distraction dimension that passes through the axis of rotation; and
  the blade having first and second cutting edges positioned at opposite sides of the axis of rotation, the first and second cutting edges being separated by a cutting dimension that passes through the axis of rotation, the cutting dimension being less than the distraction dimension.